IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-63. (canceled).

64. (currently amended) A method of treating a mammalian subject having a disease condition responsive to a therapeutic compound, said method comprising administering to the subject of an effective disease treating amount of a prodrug comprising:

(a) at least one therapeutic compound, wherein the therapeutic compound is selected from the group consisting of a therapeutic compound comprising etoposide and a therapeutic compound comprising an etoposide analog which retains some or all of the therapeutic activity of etoposide; and

(b) one or more PEG polymers and/or oligomers, each joined to a bonding site on the therapeutic compound by a hydrolyzable bond, said PEG polymers and/or oligomers each:

(i) comprising a straight or branched PEG segment consisting of ~~2~~ 1 to 25 polyethylene glycol units; and

(ii) ~~optionally~~ comprising a salt-forming moiety.

65-67. (canceled).

68. (original) The method of claim 64 wherein the PEG oligomer has a number of PEG oligomer units selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

69-72. (canceled).

73. (currently amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the therapeutic compound is derivatized by ~~1, 2, 3 or 4 of~~ from 1 up to the maximum number of sites of attachment for the PEG oligomer(s).

74. (original) The method of claim 64 wherein the prodrug is administered by a route of administration which comprises an oral route of administration.

75. (original) The method of claim 64 wherein the prodrug is administered by a route of administration which comprises a parenteral route of administration.

76. (canceled).

77. (original) The method of claim 64 wherein the disease condition is selected from the group consisting of cancers, tumors, and malignancies.

78. (canceled).

79. (original) The method of claim 64 wherein the disease condition comprises a condition selected from the group consisting of small cell lung cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, testicular cancer, lymphoma, leukemia, ovarian cancer, and gastric cancer.

80. (original) The method of claim 64 wherein the prodrug is administered as a component of a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) the prodrug; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

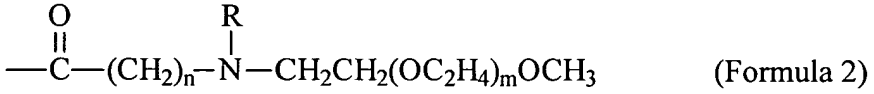
81. (original) The method of claim 80 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in a

form suitable for oral administration.

82. (original) The method of claim 80 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in a form suitable for parenteral administration.

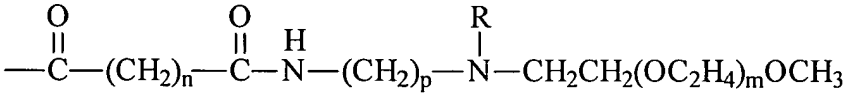
83. (canceled).

84. (currently amended) A method of treating a mammalian subject having a disease condition responsive to a therapeutic compound, said method comprising administering to the subject of an effective disease treating amount of a prodrug comprising the therapeutic compound selected from the group consisting of a therapeutic compound comprising etoposide and a therapeutic compound comprising an etoposide analog which retains some or all of the therapeutic activity of etoposide and wherein the therapeutic compound is joined by hydrolyzable bond(s) to one or more PEG oligomer(s) selected from the group consisting of:



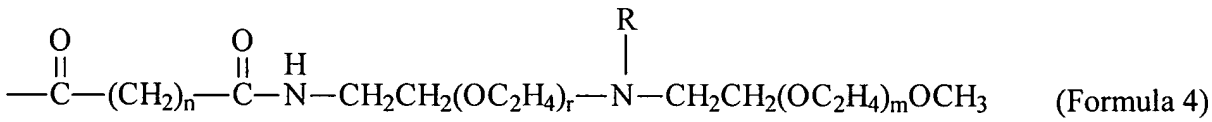
(Formula 2)

wherein n is from 1 to 7, m is from 2 to 25, and R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl;



(Formula 3)

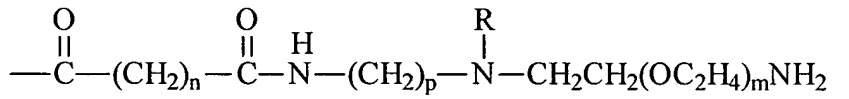
wherein n is from 1 to 6, p is from 2 to 8, m is from 2 to 25, and R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl;



(Formula 4)

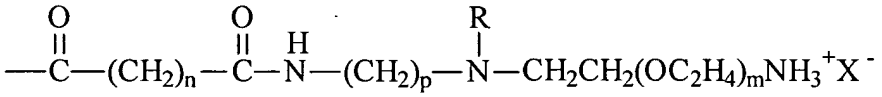
wherein n is from 1 to 6, m and r are each independently from 2 to 25, and R is hydrogen or a

lower alkyl;



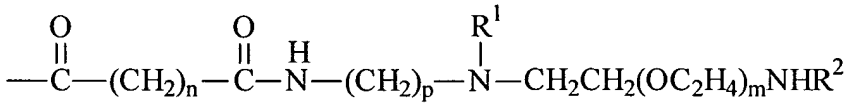
(Formula 5)

wherein n is from 1 to 6, p is from 2 to 8, m is from 2 to 25 and R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl;



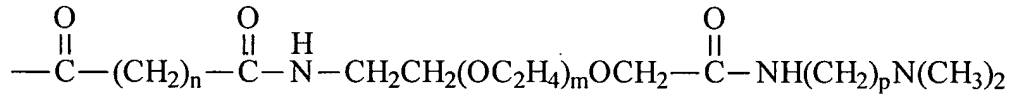
(Formula 6)

wherein n is from 1 to 6, p is from 2 to 8, m is from 2 to 25, X^- is a negative ion and R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl;



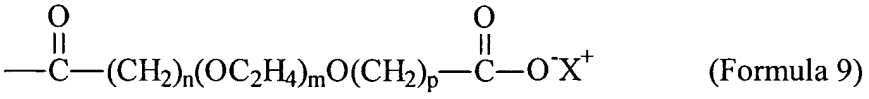
(Formula 7)

wherein n is from 1 to 6, p is from 2 to 8, m is from 2 to 25, and R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl;



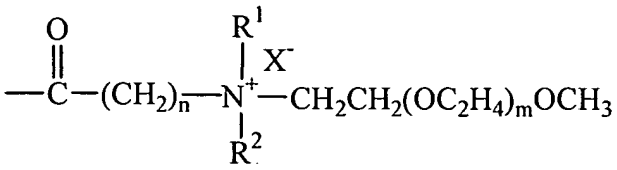
(Formula 8)

wherein n is from 1 to 6, p is from 2 to 8 and m is from 2 to 25;



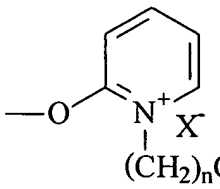
(Formula 9)

wherein n and p are each independently from 1 to 6, m is from 2 to 25 and X^+ is a positive ion;



(Formula 10)

wherein n is from 1 to 5, m is from 2 to 25, and wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen or lower alkyl; and



(Formula 11)

wherein n is from 1 to 6, m is from 2 to 25 and X^- is a negative ion.

85-86. (canceled).

87. (original) The method of claim 84 wherein the one or more PEG oligomer(s) each has 2, 3, 4 or 5 PEG oligomer units.

88-91. (canceled).

92. (currently amended) The method of claim 84 wherein the therapeutic compound is derivatized by ~~1, 2, 3 or 4 of~~ from 1 up to the maximum number of sites of attachment for the PEG oligomer(s).

93. (original) The method of claim 84 wherein the prodrug is delivered by a route of administration which comprises an oral route of administration.

94. (original) The method of claim 84 wherein the prodrug is delivered by a route of

administration which comprises an parenteral route of administration.

95. (canceled).

96. (original) The method of claim 84 wherein the disease condition is selected from the group consisting of cancers, tumors and malignancies.

97. (original) The method of claim 84 wherein the disease condition comprises a condition selected from the group consisting of small cell lung cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, testicular cancer, lymphoma, leukemia, ovarian cancer, and gastric cancer.

98. (original) The method of claim 84 wherein the prodrug is administered as a component of a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) the prodrug; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

99. (original) The method of claim 98 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for oral administration.

100. (original) The method of claim 98 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for parenteral administration.

101. (canceled).